the Alliance Witness

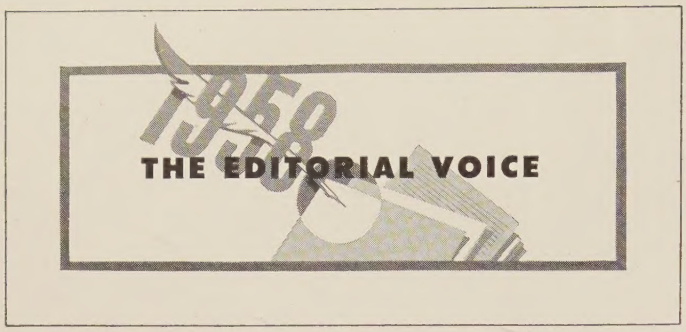
(FORMERLY THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY)

ELDERBROOK
PROPERTY OF
RELIGION

MARCH 26, 1958

S/C. WILLIAMS

"Lift your glad voices in triumph on high,
For Jesus hath risen, and man shall not die!"



LIFT YOUR GLAD VOICES

Just as the Book of Psalms is a lyric commentary on the Old Testament, set to the music of warm personal devotion, so our great Christian hymns form a joyous commentary on the New Testament.

While no instructed Christian would claim for any hymn the same degree of inspiration that belongs to the Psalms, the worshiping singing soul is easily persuaded that many hymns possess an inward radiance that is a little more than human. If not inspired in the full and final sense, they are yet warm with the breath of the Spirit and sweet with the fragrance of myrrh and aloes and cassia out of the ivory palaces.

In the hymns all the basic doctrines of the Christian faith are celebrated. Were the Scriptures to be destroyed or made inaccessible to the church, it would not be too difficult to extract from our hymns a complete body of Bible doctrine. This would, of course, lack the authority of the inspired Word, but it might well serve in a dark hour to keep alive the faith of our fathers. As long as the church can sing her great hymns she cannot be defeated; for hymns are theology set to music.

Hymns do not create truth, nor even reveal it; they celebrate it. They are the response of the trusting heart to a truth revealed or a fact accomplished. God does it and man sings it. God speaks and a hymn is the musical echo of His voice.

No other event in the history of the world has brought forth such a full chorus of song as the resurrection of Christ from the dead. More music has issued from Joseph's empty tomb than from all the concert halls of the world since the dawn of the first civilization. The resurrection was the fact. Hymnody is the response of faith to that fact.

The story of Easter might be told in some fullness of detail by merely stringing together in their proper order lines and verses from our classic hymns. Take for instance the restrained but intensely joyous Latin hymn,

> *"The strife is o'er, the battle done;*
> *Now is the Victor's triumph won;*
> *Now be the song of praise begun—*
> *Hallelujah!"*

There we have pure theology, with an exhortation and an exclamation added. The rest of the hymn develops the doctrine further:

> *"The powers of death have done their worst,*
> *But Christ their legion hath dispersed; . . .*
> *"He brake the age-bound chains of hell;*
> *The bars from heaven's high portals fell . . ."*

To each of these couplets is added a joyous call to praise and the ejaculatory *Hallelujah!* This is hymnody at its best. It does not seek to reveal anything; it assumes that the facts are already known, and sets them forth in a manner that makes praise and song the natural result.

Another Latin hymn dating back to the sixth century begins,

> *" 'Welcome, happy morning!' age to age shall say;*
> *Hell today is vanquished; Heaven is won today.*
> *Lo! the Dead is living, God for evermore!*
> *Him, their true Creator, all His works adore."*

This sets forth the theological reason behind the joy of Easter. Christ was dead, but His death was not an accident; neither was it the result of sickness or age. He died to vanquish hell and win heaven for men. Christ was dead, but He is not dead now. Lo! the Dead is living! And how can believing men keep silent?

No Bible-taught Christian can allow himself to live in bondage to days and times and seasons (Col. 2:16, 17; Rom. 14:4-10; 2 Cor. 3:5-18). He knows he is free from the Law, and the Judaizing brethren who seek to rivet a yoke on his neck will not have much success. But he nevertheless appreciates the value of one day in seven to devote to prayer and praise. And since Christ arose from the dead on the first day the Bible-loving man will see the spiritual appropriateness of the first day as the Christian's voluntary sabbath day.

In a great and loved hymn by Christopher Wordsworth this idea is set forth with great beauty and unanswerable logic. After praising the first day as a "day of rest and gladness" and a "day of joy and light . . . most beautiful, most bright," he gives three sound reasons for celebrating it:

> *"On thee, at the creation,*
> *The light first had its birth;*
> *On thee, for our salvation,*
> *Christ rose from depths of earth;*
> *On thee, our Lord, victorious,*
> *The Spirit sent from heaven;*
> *And thus on thee, most glorious,*
> *A triple light was given."*

On the first day light had its birth; on the first day Christ arose; on the first day the Holy Ghost descended. Though there is much other truth to support this, for a true follower of Christ no stronger argument is needed. On the first day he will love to remember Christ's triumph; and each first day will be to him a reminder that Christ rose from depths of earth.

Thank God for the Easter season that serves in some measure to focus the attention of Christians upon that great rock of their historic faith, *Christ is risen!* We can hardly make too much of it. So we shout with the hymnist,

> *"Lift your glad voices in triumph on high,*
> *For Jesus hath risen, and man shall not die!"*

The Joy of Easter

By A. B. SIMPSON

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath
clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath
covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments,
and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.
For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,
and as the garden causeth the things that are
sown in it to spring forth;
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring forth
before all the nations" (Isa. 61:10, 11).

EVERY word in this burst of praise is throbbing with the pulse of life and spring. And how it all breathes the spirit of the resurrection. For both Nature and Redemption are whispering to us again of life—the strange deep mystery of life, abundant life, overflowing life, the life that springs from death, the resurrection of the seed, the plant, the flower; the resurrection of the Saviour and of the soul that enters into "the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death."

The prophet's joy arises from the contemplation of the heavenly garments which the Lord has put upon him. He has "the garments of salvation," God's pardoning, justifying, renewing grace. Then he has a richer robe, "the robe of righteousness." This is Christ's sanctifying grace and it covers him. There is no shortage, no failure; His grace is abundantly sufficient.

Next is the priestly robe, the enduement for service, the baptism of power. And finally comes the marriage robe and the ornaments of the bride, the special preparation for the coming of the Lord, which the Holy Spirit is giving today to all who "look for him." Surely we may well rejoice in such a divine enrobing. Are we thus robed and ready?

But the emphatic thought of the beautiful symbol that follows is that all this is not a mere outward and mechanical attachment to us of something apart, but a living growth from within like the buds and blossoms and fruit of the garden and the spring. Divine character is vital and spontaneous. It is not merely put on, but it is inwrought and inherent, springing from the depths of our being by a heavenly planting, and then a process of growth and development as real as the seed, the "blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."

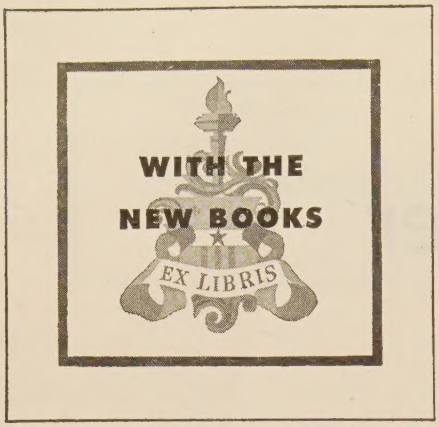
The legend that the first garments of our parents in Eden were simply exhalations of their own inward purity and moral beauty, which covered them like a rainbow or a cloud, which after their fall dropped away and left them conscious that they were "naked," if not literally true is at least profoundly suggestive. Holy character reflects itself in every expression of our outward life. And our fruitfulness here and glory yonder depend upon what we really are in our fellowship with God and in our resemblance to and vital union with Him.

Easter should always bring us deep heart searching, divine quickening and new uprising toward all that for which we are "apprehended of Christ Jesus." Above all other seasons it calls us to revival and renewal, and calls to us from His open grave. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above."

First, it is a great argument for our Christian faith, and reassures us that our faith is established on immovable foundations. Next, it is a great seal of our security and salvation. It assures us that in His death our sins are dead, and in His resurrection our life is safe forevermore. Then it is a great pledge guaranteeing our future resurrection as surely as He has conquered death and "become the firstfruits of them that slept."

Further, the resurrection is a great standard of the possibilities of faith and a great challenge and inspiration, reminding us of the "exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

Henceforth, nothing is too hard for faith. Let us answer to the challenge and rise with our risen Lord to the highest things. ◆ ◆ ◆



Order your books from either house

CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Third and Reily Streets
Harrisburg, Pa.

WILLIAM H. DIETZ, INC.
10 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 3, Ill.

A Bride for His Son, More Light from Bible Lands on Bible Illustrations, by Thomas A. Lambie, M.D. Loizeaux Brothers (1957), New York, N. Y. 188 pages, $2.50.

There is a gentle charm about Dr. Lambie's rambling little discourses on lambs and wells, on potters and pomegranates, drawing on an understanding of Bible times as well as his personal knowledge of the ways of modern Palestine. These are the sort of comments that may stick in one's memory and be brought out as one teaches or discusses Bible stories. There is more here, though, than illustrations. On many a page Dr. Lambie has slipped in important spiritual truths, as when he described the cave of Adullam and thought of our dark caves of misunderstanding out of which blessing may come; or when he told of Joshua's witness stone under an oak in Shechem and of our need to put our stones under an oak, that our decisions may not be forgotten.—HELEN SIGRIST.

Christian Science, by Walter R. Martin. Division of Cult Apologetics, Zondervan Publishing Co. (1957), Grand Rapids, Mich. 32 pages, 35 cents (paper).

Considering its brevity, this booklet has a surprising amount of information on Mrs. Eddy and her plagiarisms of other cultists, with a good many quotations from her writings which illustrate the contradiction between her teaching and Bible truth. Included is a list of texts which Christians can use to prove the errors of Christian Science. Arguments can never convince those deceived by a cult such as this, nor attacks on the integrity of Mrs. Eddy (though it is useful to know her background), but it is a great mistake to refuse to witness to those deluded souls. The Holy Spirit can open their eyes as we pray and use the Bible with loving persistence.—HELEN SIGRIST.

Giants of the Missionary Trail, by Eugene Myers Harrison. Scripture Press (1954), Wheaton, Ill. 184 pages, $2.50.

The author is a missionary, pastor and college professor. In this book he presents eight biographical sketches of missionary heroes. He tells of Henry Knott, "herald of the love of God in Tahiti." As he repeated John 3:16 for more than the thousandth time a native exclaimed, "Is that true?" Eventually the king of the land was baptized in the presence of five thousand of his people. William Carey, George Grenfell, Adoniram Judson, David Livingstone, James Chalmers and Jonathan Goforth, the great missionary evangelist to China, are included. Following each adventure-packed chapter, the author has arranged questions, topics and assignments for study.

It is a book for mission study classes and for every Christian household.—HAROLD C. MASON.

Heaven's Throne Gift, by James A. Stewart. Revival Literature, Asheville, N. C. 194 pages, $3.00.

This is an excellent volume on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and the church written from the practical point of view. Throughout it expresses the author's conviction that what the church needs more than all else is a baptism of sanctifying power.

The title identifies the vital and often overlooked truth that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was Christ's coronation gift to the church. Now the Spirit of God communicates the life and power of the ascended, glorified Lord.

There is something refreshingly unique about this book—it is not copyrighted. The author states in the preface that "any portion or portions of it may be freely used for reprinting in any part of the world, for His glory." This is quite a contrast to a sheet of music that came to this reviewer's desk a few days ago entitled "Gentle Shepherd." Directly beneath this benign title, in boldface type, was the ominous threat: "Warning! Violations of copyright restrictions will result in heavy fines or imprisonment!"—S. A. WITMER.

The Miracles of Our Lord, by John Laidlaw. Baker Book House (1956), Grand Rapids, Mich. 388 pages, $3.50.

A reprint of the nineteenth century classic by the noted Scotch Presbyterian theologian. This meaty volume is entirely expository; it does not deal with critical problems. The publishers are to be commended for making it available to contemporary readers, for little is written in these superficial times that is comparable to it in clarity and substance.—S. A. WITMER.

Books in Brief

Me and My House, by Walter R. and Myrtle M. Williams. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. (1957), Grand Rapids, Mich. 187 pages, $3.00.

This is a simple story of a Quaker family that has served the Lord with devotion—George DeVol as a medical missionary in China, and his daughter and two sons as missionaries in China and India.

Billy Graham and the New York Crusade, by George Burnham and Lee Fisher. Zondervan Publishing House (1957), Grand Rapids, Mich. 192 pages, $2.50.

Quickly assembled to get into print as soon as possible after the end of the Crusade, this book includes human interest material on Billy Graham, descriptions of the meetings, excerpts from some of the sermons and sketches of some typical converts.

This Way, Please Facing Life's Crossroads, by Roy O. McClain. Fleming H. Revell Co. (1957), Westwood, N. J. 217 pages, $3.00.

Dr. McClain has written for those who are satisfied with an imitation Christianity. He has some sharp chapters, too, on the sins of the church, such as silence, dullness and sectarianism.

VOLUME 93 NUMBER 7

the Alliance Witness

(FORMERLY THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY)

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

A. B. SIMPSON, *Founder*
H. M. SHUMAN, *President-Emeritus*
HARRY L. TURNER, *President*
NATHAN BAILEY, *Vice-President*
WILLIAM F. SMALLEY, *Secretary*
BERNARD S. KING, *Treasurer*

A. W. TOZER, *Editor*
CHARLES E. NOTSON, *Assistant Editor*
ANITA M. BAILEY, *Managing Editor*

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Harrisburg, Pa. Published biweekly by Christian Publications, Inc.

Subscriptions: United States and Canada, $2.00; Foreign, $2.75. Address correspondence on editorial matters to THE ALLIANCE WITNESS, 260 W. 44th St., New York 36, N. Y.; regarding subscriptions, Third and Reily Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

When requesting change of address kindly give both old and new address to insure proper mailing. *(Printed in U. S. A.)*

Most of us know of Him, many know Him; fewer have seen Him in larger revelations; but our individual knowledge of Christ is as varied as our personalities.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

By REV. O. O. MOTSENBOCKER

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."—JOHN 14:21.

TO be engaged with the Person of Christ is the greatest occupation in the world. The business of knowing Christ is a business of revelation, whether it be the first ray of light unto salvation or whether it be the full-orbed revelation of Jesus Christ unto St. John the divine. As earthly creatures our knowledge at its best falls far short of comprehending Christ. But according to the "measure of faith" and by the eye of faith some see clearer and farther than others.

All along the graduated road of faith are manifested our differences in the knowledge and revelation of Jesus Christ. The Scriptures everywhere admonish us to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of . . . Jesus Christ." The apostle Paul prayed for the saints that "God . . . may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened . . ." No further proof is needed to show that knowledge and revelations are meant to be an integral part of the everyday practical Christian life.

There is tremendous confusion in this hour that all acknowledge. Light on the subject is the answer. Christ is that Light! To understand Jesus Christ better is to understand all things better, for all the mysteries are hidden in Christ. We are missing the mark if in all our Christian walk we are not consciously engaged in knowing Christ better.

Our failure in evangelical faith to recognize the importance of this, to fail to experience Christ in revelation, rests simply upon the very foolish presumption that we already know all about Christ. One may know a great deal about Christ, His message, His appeal, the scriptural accounts concerning Him, and not know Him personally in revelation. "Ye search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. *And ye will not come to me,* that ye might have life."

I believe that all too many of us assume that we have comprehended Christ. Paul has cautioned us on this wise: "If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know" (1 Cor. 8:2). I do not say that we know not Christ at all, as Saviour, as Sanctifier, as Healer and as coming King. But while even in these realms the depth unexplored is breath-taking, I refer to the purposes of Christ in us, the matchless, infinite wisdom of God in Christ and the "riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints" (Eph. 1).

Suppose I fly to New York and mistake a stopover in Chicago for my destination, will I see reason to board the plane again? Paul lived this principle in his life. With all the revelations that he had, he claimed not to have fathomed that for which he had been chosen. The depth of Christ is infinite, and undoubtedly will be continuously explored throughout eternity.

The agency for knowing Christ better is the Holy Spirit (John 16:13). But before the Holy Spirit can minister to us we must be open to new light about Christ, humbly realizing that all we know of Him is immeasurably short of His fullness. John the divine put in words the revelation of Jesus Christ and left us with the most mysterious book in the Bible. It is not strange that Paul said he saw things "not lawful for a man to utter."

This however should not discourage anyone. The wholesome attitude and determination are manifested in the apostle's own words: "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The matter of knowing Christ and comprehending Him, of growing in grace and in the knowledge of Christ, is guaranteed upon a simple life of obedient faith. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." Knowing Christ is a "pressing forward," forgetting past things, even your former faithfulness. It is a matter of keeping His commandments *now.*

Walking in the commandments of

Mr. Motsenbocker is pastor of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Paramount, Calif.

our Lord is walking in His footsteps; it is walking in Him, the fulfilled Law; it is walking in what He obeyed. Clothed with His righteousness, in His brightness and His likeness, one may experience Christ in greater depth and revelation continually.

The greater revelation of Jesus Christ is locked up tight against the impure in heart. The deeper knowledge and revelation of our Lord is sealed against those who would grieve the Holy Spirit. And as this is true, so according to the measure of faith working in us, which is relative to our consecration, will the eyes of understanding be enlightened. The humble position, then, the healthy position to take, is that you know nothing of Him as you ought. You are on solid ground in this attitude and here may greater depth be explored. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."

To know Christ as He is we must disabuse our minds of the false concept the artists have given us of His physical appearance. Everywhere in the Scriptures we are exhorted to live by faith and not by physical sight. There is never an effort in Holy Writ to reveal Christ in the flesh to us. Nowhere is the importance of the physical body of Christ emphasized in such a way that we should desire to see it or touch it. On the contrary, Christ Himself told Thomas, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

It is the fleshly image of Christ that blinds many of us to the glorified image of God. It should be simple enough to remind ourselves that the pictures we see are not true pictures of Christ, but it is hard to erase the habits of years. Even for those who do not accept them, there is tolerance of these pictures, and it is their presence in our churches and bookstores that leaves our youngsters as well as most adults with an inclination to see the fleshly rather than the glorified Christ.

Why have we of the evangelical faith stooped to this image worship? Why do we follow the traditional practice of hanging an imaginative picture of Jesus on the walls of our homes and churches as though it were an exact portrayal of Christ? Who would keep a picture of anyone around if there was the least doubt that it represented the person intended? Then why in the name of common sense should we transgress against the true identity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?

With no discredit to the body in which God revealed His Son, we must remember that the revelation was not that physical body of Christ. When Isaiah said, "He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him," he referred to the human form in which God veiled His deity. That pure and beautiful gleaming Light which burst upon the horizon of the world was surely not in the mind of the prophet; for how beautiful is that Light that has continued to lighten the Gentiles and shineth more perfectly unto that Eternal Day.

When you worship the gracious Lily of the Valley, the radiance of a countenance portrayed on canvas can never be compared in any smallest likeness to the radiance of Him who is the fairest of ten thousand, the "firstborn of every creature." Let us consider Christ apart from fleshly appearance if we would see Him of whom He so graciously and wisely said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Were it possible I personally would consider it sacrilegious to take a photograph of the Lord Jesus Christ; which would be more accurate than any painting of the greatest artist on earth. To accept the painting of Christ by any artist is but to look at Christ through the eyes of another.

Let us rather approach Him directly at the throne of grace and worship Him often. Then allow His beauty and radiance to be reflected in our lives. The world about us lies in darkness and sin. Are we reflecting that true light from the Son of God? Are we candles set on a hill; are we the light of the world, lights in a darkened and confused world? To dwell in the presence of Christ is to continue His ministry as a light shining in darkness. ◆ ◆ ◆

MANITOBA TRAVEL AGENCY

Winnipeg's Civic Auditorium, where the Saturday night and Sunday services of the General Council (May 14-19) will be held, also contains the museum and art gallery

Sunday at the Council

At eleven o'clock Sunday morning, May 18, Dr. H. L. Turner will bring the annual presidential address to the General Council convening in Winnipeg, Canada. Also participating in this service will be the Preachers Chorus directed by Dr. R. R. Brown. This group of singers, a famed institution of the Council, will bring musical messages at all the public services.

One of the most memorable services of the annual meeting is the missionary rally held Sunday at 2:30 P.M. Over 100 missionaries from all parts of the world will be present for this service directed by Dr. Brown. Missionaries are requested to bring costumes for this occasion, and also curios for the missionary display.

Dr. J. Sidlow Baxter, well-known Bible teacher of Scotland, will speak each evening at half-past seven, and will bring the concluding message of the Council on Sunday. Business sessions continue on Monday, May 19.

Those planning to attend the Council are urged to make both travel and hotel arrangements as early as possible. Inquiries concerning accommodations at Winnipeg should be addressed to Rev. E. S. McVety, 866 Minto Street, Winnipeg, Canada.

The transcending event of the New Testament and the sure hope of the believer—

The Lord Is Coming!

By AARON JUDAH KLIGERMAN, D.D.

Address to the Forty-second Annual Conference of the Hebrew Christian Alliance (Abridged)

THE Lord is coming! Of this we are sure.

In the New Testament the coming of the Lord is the one transcending event that rises in dignity and importance over every other event mentioned.

"Indeed," says Dr. James M. Gray, "it is mentioned more than three hundred times in the New Testament. Inasmuch as in that small compass the Spirit of God has caused the second coming of Christ to be referred to in one way or another three hundred times, we can appreciate the importance it occupies in His mind, and the importance it ought to occupy in our minds who are redeemed of God through the precious blood of His Son."

Dr. Horatius Bonar, one of God's choicest saints, said, "As far as the main features of our Lord's coming are concerned I am more than ever convinced; but as regards to detail we must learn to exercise charity one towards another."

The Hope of His Coming

It is notable that there are more references in the Scriptures to the second coming of our Lord than to the first coming. Here are a few representative passages from the New Testament:

1. Paul wrote that "we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:12, 13).

2. Peter expressed his hope in these words: "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1st Ep. 1:7).

3. John wrote, "When he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1st Ep. 3:2).

4. James exhorted, "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord" (5:7).

5. In the last book of the Bible we read John's exclamation: "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen" (Rev. 1:7).

The Time of His Coming

We find certain indications as to the time of our Lord's coming, but the exact time is withheld. We are cautioned not to set dates. Our Lord Himself warned, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt. 24:36).

1. The time of the flood, we are told by our Lord Jesus, is a type or picture of conditions at His return. The world was destroyed and eight persons were saved.

2. During the time of the deliverance from Egypt, only a comparatively small company of herdsmen were saved, while Pharaoh and his subjects were delivered to destruction.

3. Again when Jesus came into Jerusalem hardly anyone believed in Him. Soon after came the destruction of Jerusalem, and yet all who were of the faith were delivered while the rest were scattered over the earth to become a byword and scorn.

So shall it be at the end of this dispensation. There shall be "the fulness of the time," and contrary to the expectations of many, it will not be that things will have become bright and beautiful, and that our human race will have evolved a so-called Golden Age. Rather, just when men are rejecting God and have come into a darker moral condition than ever before, the Lord will come again to deliver His people. History will repeat itself.

When is He coming? "In such an hour as ye think not [at a time when you do not expect Him, Weymouth]" (Matt. 24:44). "Ye know not when . . . , at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning" (Mark 13:35).

The Christian, then, who has a heavenly calling (Heb. 3:1) and a heavenly hope (Col. 1:5) waits not for death, though he may die, but for God's Son from heaven (1 Thess. 1:10). He is to be ever on the watch (Mark 13:34-37), because the Lord may come at any moment.

The Result of His Coming

1. To the Church it will mean the resurrection of the believers departed: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming" (1 Cor. 15:22, 23).

2. The return of the Lord will

bring transformation of the living as well as of the dead: "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We all shall not sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1 Cor. 15:51-53, A.S.V.).

3. At the return of our Lord the living believers are not only to be transfigured, they are also to be translated: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

Its Meaning to Israel

To Israel His coming will mean prophecies fulfilled. The coming of Christ is always connected in God's prophetic Word with Israel's conversion. "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you" (Ezek. 36:24, 25).

We naturally ask what it is that will bring about Israel's conversion? "Their national conversion," says the late Rev. Samuel Schor, "will be brought about by a catastrophe, greater than any which has overtaken them in their long checkered history. It has been so with Israel throughout the centuries. Unbelief and rebellion have led them from one disaster to another. 'Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses' (Psa. 107:13)."

Many of Israel's prophets saw the awful tragedy to come, and recorded it with trembling fingers.

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of Israel's restoration happily (30:3), then suddenly checks himself as he adds the woeful words: "We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . . Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble" (vv. 5, 7).

Zechariah, a prophet after the Babylonian Exile, in the fourteenth chapter of his book furnishes a description of the final struggle leading to the climax. The land of Israel will be in the hands of its foes; Jerusalem will have fallen into their hands, and they will have begun the sacking of the city. Then when the Jews see themselves doomed to utter destruction will come the reassuring word, "The Lord shall go forth, and fight against those nations . . . ," and He is seen standing on the Mount of Olives (vv. 1-4).

Surely our own God-promised Messiah, Joshua, has come to the rescue of His people in their distress. The fact that we have rejected Him these many centuries has not changed the heart and mind of God. "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jer. 31:3). "They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and . . . mourn" (Zech. 12:10), saying, "This is our God; we have waited for him."

This will be Israel's spiritual birthday, "and so all Israel shall be saved" (Rom. 11:26). This, my brethren, is not the birthday of the Church! It is our people's spiritual reawakening, our coming back to the God of our fathers through Christ, our God-promised Messiah. "Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; . . . The Lord hath taken away thy judgments: . . . the King of Israel, even the Lord, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more" (Zeph. 3:14, 15).

What a glorious picture of things to come! When all is purified and the filth cleared away, then will the glory of the Lord be seen; the kingdom of God will be established on earth for the reign which is to last a thousand years. This, beloved, will be the millennium! ◆ ◆ ◆

Quotes from Our Contemporaries

Christians need to see what it means to be vitally related to an exalted Christ, says T. A. Hegre, in *Message of the Cross:*

"Today the church knows Christ mainly as Friend, Saviour, Sympathizer, Encourager, Pal, or someone to 'take' in time of need. Our emphasis has been so weak that we have raised a crop of Christians that need constant encouragement—they have no sense of Christ's greatness, His glory, His majesty, His power or His exaltation."

Jesus Lives and So Shall I

From the German of Furchtegott Gellert, 1757

Jesus lives, and so shall I;
Death, thy sting is gone forever:
He who deigned for me to die,
Lives, the bands of death to sever.
He shall raise me with the just:
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

Jesus lives, and reigns supreme;
And, His kingdom still remaining,
I shall also be with Him
Ever living, every reigning.
God has promised; be it must:
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

Jesus lives, and God extends
Grace to each returning sinner;
Rebels He receives as friends,
And exalts to highest honor.
God is true as He is just:
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

Jesus lives, and by His grace,
Victory o'er my passions giving,
I will cleanse my heart and ways,
Ever to His glory living.
Th' weak He raises from the dust:
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

Jesus lives, and I am sure
Naught shall e'er from Jesus sever;
Satan's wiles and Satan's power,
Pain or pleasure, ye shall never!
Christian armor cannot rest;
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

Jesus lives, and death is now
But my entrance into glory,
Courage! then, my soul, for thou
Hast a crown of life before thee;
Thou shalt find thy hopes were just;
Jesus is the Christian's Trust.

DAVID R. ENLOW, Editor

AT HOME

Bible measure dies in Michigan Senate: A state Senate committee tabled a joint resolution calling for Bible readings without comment to open each school day for Michigan children. Tabling of the resolution by the judiciary committee killed the proposal which had been introduced by a group of Republican senators.

●

Southern Baptists report record gains: Membership in the Southern Baptist Convention increased to a record total of 8,966,255 last year, a gain of more than 257,000 over 1956. They contributed $397,550,347 in 1957—an all-time high.

●

Two colleges to coördinate: The Assemblies of God will coördinate administration of its two Springfield, Mo., colleges under one president beginning with the fall semester of this year. Operating under the new program will be Central Bible Institute and Evangel College.

●

Library of Congress gets Lincoln Bible: A copy of a Bible owned by Abraham Lincoln has been donated to the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C., by Mr. Lincoln Isham, of Dorset, Vt., great-grandson. The gift was made on the 149th anniversary of Lincoln's birthday and will be part of an exhibit of Lincoln mementos that the Library of Congress will place on public display in 1959, in connection with the Lincoln sesquicentennial observance.

●

Police sergeant runs basement mission: A twenty-year veteran on the Charleston police force is the chaplain for rehabilitation of many persons brought before the municipal judge in Charleston, W. Va. Sgt. Kenneth Hager, a Nazarene, and his wife have been operating Souls' Harbor Mission in mid-town basement quarters for two years.

ABROAD

New Baptist organization formed in Japan: A new Baptist organization—the Japan Baptist Union—has been formed by a group of Baptist representatives which met at Hayama near Tokyo. The Union consists at present of twenty-seven churches, six educational institutions and five Christian centers.

●

British Methodist membership decreases: For the third successive year, membership in the Methodist Church of Great Britain declined in 1957. The decrease was 2,764, bringing total membership to 739,680, it was announced in London.

●

Spanish churches ask prayer for civil marriages: Evangelical churches of Spain designated Sunday, March 2, as a Day of Special Intercession and asked Christians in other countries to join them in prayer that legal means may be found to obtain civil marriages for Spanish evangelicals.

●

A Bible gift for Philippine president: President Carlos P. Garcia, of the Philippines, accepted a gift copy of the Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible on February 10 in his study at the Malacanang Palace. The formal presentation was made by a delegation headed by Rev. Angel B. Taglucop, Agency Secretary of the Philippine Bible House.

PEOPLE

Baptist Alliance president to visit Colombia: Dr. Theodore F. Adams, president of the Baptist World Alliance with headquarters in Washington, D. C., announced plans to visit Colombia April 15-21 in the interest of religious liberty.

PEOPLE SAY

Rev. Ralph W. Stutzman, acting minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, D. C.: "One of the frontiers now confronting Unitarianism and causing much anxiety within our circles lies in the question 'Are Unitarians Christians?' It is true that we Unitarians have come out of a Christian tradition, a Christian heritage, but now I think it is time for us to face the fact that we have come out. We ought to be honest enough to let go of our claim upon Christianity."

THE PRESS

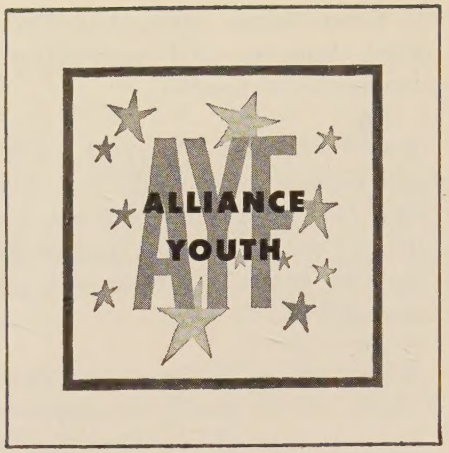
Record number of tracts published in 1957: Production of 20,312,000 tracts in 1957, a new record, was announced by the American Tract Society. Henry G. Perry, executive secretary of the society which has been producing Christian literature since 1825, said the production figure just exceeded the goal of 20,000,000 pieces that had been set for the year.

●

World Missionary Literature Sunday scheduled: World Missionary Literature Sunday will be observed by evangelical churches October 12, 1958. Evangelical Literature Overseas, an agency for the production and distribution of literature, said the observance would "focus the attention of churches at home and abroad on the role of the mass-printed media in the contemporary missionary picture."

●

New edition of John Wesley's writings: For the first time in eighty-six years a new edition of the complete works of John Wesley is planned. Zondervan Publishing House in Grand Rapids, Mich., will produce them.



WELDON B. BLACKFORD, Editor

Looking at the District-wide AYF

It is very easy for AYFers and their program to become, or give the appearance of becoming, self-centered and snobbish. Some see only the AYF; others see the AYF and the church program; others see beyond these to the fellowship of other AYFs and churches in a local area; still others see beyond these to a district-wide youth fellowship.

It is important for our young people to realize that their local AYF program is part of the over-all church program and must never be separated from the church. Young people should never become so self-important that their group becomes independent of the church.

The fellowship that is negligent and delinquent in its responsibility to the AYF testimony of a local area also suffers. The group that fails to support area rallies and united gatherings of other AYFs suffers ill will in their local area testimony and loses out in the kind of Christian fellowship that strengthens a local group.

Great spiritual strength can come to the local AYF when it unites in the fellowship of a district-wide program. Therefore, the emphasis program for the local AYF in the month of April bears the theme, *AYF District Emphasis.* There are some things that all our young people should know and keep in mind regarding their district-wide fellowship.

1. *Every district has an official youth office.* A full-time or part-time youth secretary or representative is elected by the District Prayer Conference. This is an annual meeting of pastors within a district and is usually held in the fall of the year. The part-time secretary administers the district youth office as well as holding a pastorate. A district youth committee is also appointed by the prayer conference or district executive committee to serve with the youth secretary. AYFers should know the name of and become acquainted with their district youth secretary.

2. *Every district youth office is being strengthened to serve the local AYF and the district AYF.* Beginning in April all special releases heretofore received from the National Youth Office will be released from your district youth office. The National Youth Office is endeavoring to strengthen your district AYF by making your district youth office the distribution center for all AYF materials.

3. *Every district youth office must be supported financially by the local AYF.* If your AYF is to enjoy the fellowship of a strong district fellowship and to receive help from your district youth office, it must receive your financial support. Much of the material you will receive from your district office will be sent you free upon request. In order for this to be done, financial assistance must come from the local AYF to care for mailing and handling.

A simple plan has been devised whereby all our Alliance Youth Fellowships can share in this financial responsibility. The District Emphasis Program for April requests each AYF to send one of their four weekly offerings during April to your district youth secretary, who in turn will forward it to the treasurer of your district. Let's try to make it a 100 per cent participation in every district.

4. *Every district has an official local AYF rally zone.* Your local AYF is located in a rally zone which has been established to strengthen your local program through spiritual fellowship with other groups. The rally program is a vital part of our fellowship, and your National Youth Office is now preparing a release which will help strengthen this program in your area. If there is to be a strong rally program in your area, every local AYF must support it with prayer and attendance.

5. *Every district has a summer youth camp or conference program.* Most of our districts have summer camp program advertising ready for distribution. Some of the districts have inaugurated a savings program whereby AYFers can save for camp during the year and thus have their way paid when camp time comes. We urge all our AYFers to investigate the summer camp or youth conference program in your district. April is the time to make your decision to go and to get your registration mailed to your district youth secretary.

A strong district-wide AYF is the medium for strengthening the AYF testimony everywhere.

Program Book

Order your copy of *Annual Youth Favorites,* AYF program book, from Christian Publications, Third and Reily Streets, Harrisburg, Pa. 75 cents per copy.

Mighty Messenger Maneuver

Kindly forward a report of this month's MMM tract distribution program in your church to the National Youth Office, 260 West 44th St., New York 36, N. Y.

AYF Bible Reading Guide

March 30 through April 12

A chapter a day from the Book of Proverbs, beginning with chapter 15.

The Leprous Serve the Leprous

By REV. C. E. GUSTAFSON, *Laos*

Ban Nam Loum, a village composed entirely of leprous people, is located down-river from Luang Prabang. Our interest in this village was quickened through a young woman who had believed in Jesus while a patient in the local hospital. She had leprosy and was transferred there. We visited this young woman, Sao Phew, one of forty patients in this segregated village.

On our first trip we were able to leave some tracts and other literature in the village. What we saw impressed upon our hearts the need to return soon and the need of someone to teach these people.

On our next visit we distributed some CARE packages containing cloth and blankets. Then my wife set up her flannelgraph board and taught the people the story of creation, emphasizing that we are all sinners and need Jesus to cleanse our hearts.

Following a message from the Heart Tract charts, I extended an invitation to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. One young man, his fingers completely gone, one foot half gone and the other foot minus toes, said, "I want to believe in Jesus and have Him cleanse me from my sins." We could feel the Spirit of God faithfully performing His office work in our midst. There were thirty-nine persons with leprosy before me. Every one of them prayed and "entered into Jesus," many with tears giving vent to the joy of His salvation which had become theirs.

One day the Lord gave me the opportunity of talking with Rev. William Kerr, the director of the Bible school for those with leprosy at Khon Kaen, Thailand. I told him the burden on my heart for someone to come and teach the group of Christians in the village near Luang Prabang. They needed someone to live there and teach them daily the things of the Lord.

Here was an opportunity to present to the Thai Church: a call for Thai missionaries to Laos. Would these people respond? The pastor and elders of a nearby village church composed of those with the disease called a meeting and fully explained the need of the Laotians to the congregation.

Sometime later a letter came from Mr. Kerr telling us that three men had volunteered to come to Ban Nam Loum. The local church, he said, had voted to take the responsibility of supporting these men on their mission. This was the "exceeding abundant."

We immediately went to Ban Nam Loum and shared this good news with them. Everybody received it with rejoicing. Shortly afterwards Nai Sumang and Nai Sang were warmly welcomed in this isolated village.

When we visited the village shortly after their arrival one worker with tears welling up in his eyes said, "See that fellow over there? That fellow," he continued, "used to smoke, drink rice alcohol and smoke opium. And do you know what happened? Well, God has delivered him from them all."

Praise God for the wonderful work of grace in the lives of these people and for the dedicated ministry of the national workers.

A Faithful Witness

By REV. DONALD LOOSE, *Africa*

Babo, one of the most faithful Christians in the Macenta church, has tuberculosis. For two months he has been resting at home and receiving treatment. But none of this has lessened his zeal to witness for the Lord.

On the occasion of a Moslem feast day recently Babo was sitting outside his house reading his Bible. Among those who passed on their way to the festivities was an old man. He was nearly blind and had to be led by a boy. Their exchange of greetings led to conversation, and Babo spent the day witnessing to them.

The man said he had been stolen from his home when a boy and sold into slavery. Then he had been forced into the Moslem religion. He had heard the message of salvation once but from one whose words were not backed by a faithful life. At that time he was convinced by the Holy Spirit that what he heard was true, but he was not converted.

Finally the old man was ready to

All the villagers at Ban Nam Loum are leprous, most of them believers in Christ

C. E. GUSTAFSON

accept Christ. The following morning another missionary and I went to pray with him. Voluntarily he surrendered his prayer beads and phylactery. His boy guide also was saved. Since then he has been testifying to everybody, especially to Moslems. Persecution has already begun. His relatives have refused to care for him further until he receives his eyesight and strength. He is now staying with Babo.

Since then Babo has led another, an older man to the Lord. He spends much time in prayer. I went to see him recently and found him closed up in his room praying. He was wet with perspiration. He said he had not prayed like that for two years. God has been speaking to him and burdening him for lost souls. May God give us more men like him!

Salvation and Healing in India

Some interesting incidents of the revival in Akola, India (ALLIANCE WITNESS, Jan. 15), are given in *The Evangelical Friend.* God worked in the meetings conducted by Dr. Akbar Abdul Haqq, who preached with great anointing.

"An Anglican archdeacon's wife became so miserable that for several days she could hardly smile. One of her first statements in the inquiry room was, 'I want to get into this spiritual family.'

"A friend who had come with her was ill but a missionary doctor had told her that physically there was nothing wrong with her that would not right itself if she got right with God. She indignantly protested, 'But I'm the pastor's wife and the daughter of a minister as well!' She could hardly walk upstairs and had to take medicines just to keep going; she seldom seemed happy. She says that while she was standing before the pulpit a heavenly rest came over her. She knew she was saved—and then she knew she was healed! She went to the house that night, walked up the stairs like a well person, forgot her medicine and slept like a baby. The next day when the missionary asked her if she had taken her medicine, she responded, 'Oh, I don't need it at all—you see, I was saved last night!' She was radiant—and perfectly whole.

"Professors and teachers as well as illiterate peasants simply accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour. Dr. Haqq's messages were not what we would usually call 'evangelistic.' But they did an evangelistic job in proportions not seen in that area before. For instance, the night he preached on prayer the greatest number responded to the appeal. Some thought that his messages were too deep. But, as though to show man that this was God's work, it seemed that the more profound the message the larger was the response amongst the illiterate and the least educated. When confronted with this as a fact, Dr. Haqq replied: 'This can only mean that it is not the message of the messenger, but God. God is at work here drawing men to Himself—doing what we cannot!'

"Many were the stories of God's amazing grace. One sinful 'Christian' woman, who had become a problem and a real disgrace to the Christian community, became the burden of two praying children of God. She had married a Buddhist and the non-Christians widely publicized the fact that a Christian, trained in Bible school and at one time a Bible woman, had turned to Buddhism. The first night she came her hardness melted; she went forward, and with her friends as counselors wept and confessed her sins to the Lord. At the last report, a transformed woman, she was deeply concerned for her Buddhist husband and was actively seeking to win him to Christ."

A Dying Wish Granted

By REV. C. E. TRAVIS, *Viet Nam*

An old Christian woman who through the war years had suffered persecution at the hands of the Communists sent for us when she was dying. She wanted us to arrange a Christian funeral. This we promised to do. By her hammock in the little, one-room house with a thatched roof we prayed with her. The glory of the Lord shone upon her face as she told us that her greatest desire was to help others in her village know Christ.

A distant relative of hers is a village official. He was touched as we told him the story of the cross, and he said he would like to become a Christian. He went with us to the home of the dying woman and, kneeling beside her hammock, he accepted Christ as his Saviour. She had witnessed to him many times, but he had resisted the Holy Spirit. Now his heart was tender. What a scene of rejoicing—the dear old lady wept for joy.

A few days later she went to be with the Lord. The new Christian attended the funeral. Pray with us that he may bear such effective witness that many in this village shall be saved.

Your personal copy of the Prayer Manual may be ordered from the Foreign Department, 260 West 44th St., New York 36, N. Y. For quantities order from Christian Publications, Inc., Third and Reily Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

Mrs. Braley Improves

On August 8, 1957, Mrs. Leonard Braley, missionary to Cambodia, was smitten with poliomyelitis in Saigon, Viet Nam. The attack was severe, leaving her completely paralyzed except for her hands and face. Her lungs were particularly impaired. The United States Air Force in Manila, Philippine Islands, rushed a medical team with an iron lung to Saigon and removed her to Manila and eventually back to the United States and to the Southwestern Poliomyelitis Respiratory and Rehabilitation Center in Houston, Tex.

The latest report on Mrs. Braley's condition is gratifying. Though her breathing is not completely normal, she has progressed until she no longer needs any breathing aid. The stiffness has gone from her neck and back and she can not only sit up straight but lean forward. Her arms are much improved; however, she still cannot lift her legs. Considering the severity of the attack her improvement at this stage is rated as excellent.

The Foreign Department, in a recent meeting, passed the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, *That we express our appreciation to The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and especially to Miss Kathleen Allen, Director of Medical Social Service, for their assistance both financial and otherwise. Their arrangements in connection with bringing Mrs. Bonnie A. Braley to the United States after her attack, with the many details regarding hospitalization and otherwise, have been of untold help to us.*"

LOUIS L. KING, *Foreign Secretary.*

India

Pray that the churches in the Marathi Synod may have a renewed vision for witnessing and pressing forward in self-support. Also, pray much for those national workers who do not yet see the need. Christians in the rural areas of our Marathi work are facing severe pressure and testing from the Buddhist Federation, a new Buddhist movement which is growing very rapidly. Pray that the Christians may stand firm in their faith in Christ. . . . Pray for Rev. R. P. Chavan who has such heavy responsibility in the Indian church. Pray that the Spirit's anointing may rest upon him continually.

French West Africa

Praise God that Mrs. A. D. Gardner has been pronounced free from cancer, this after three doctors had diagnosed her condition as malignant. D.V., they will now be returning to the field after a short furlough.

Gabon

Miss Irene Ficke arrived home on furlough not too well in body. Since then her father has become critically ill while she herself continues to suffer with severe migraine headaches. She would very much appreciate our prayers. . . . The president of the national church, Mark Divingou, is planning to make extensive trips to the various church districts this year. Pray that his ministry will be mightily blessed of the Lord as he encourages the believers to enter into a deeper walk with the Lord and a more serious understanding of their responsibilities in witnessing and tithing. . . . The national church in its recent meeting decided to extend its goals to reach more villages. This will mean the closing of the work in some villages that have been unresponsive to the challenge of the gospel, and the opening of new areas to the good news of the saving grace of our Lord. Pray that these changes will be made under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Cambodia

A new venture will take place the latter part of March, when an Indian evangelist will hold a month's meetings. Dr. A. Abdul Haqq has been greatly used of God in India and worked with the Billy Graham Crusade in America. Dr. Haqq will speak in English. The interpreting should be done by a Cambodian because he would be more widely received than would a missionary. This evangelistic campaign will involve much work both in preparation and follow-up. Add to normal difficulties those of the weather in the midst of the hot season, the language, and the unusual indifference of the people. The missionaries are trusting God for unusual victories in this 2500th year of Buddha, a year in which Buddha is supposed to make an appearance to help those in need. May the Spirit

of God and our blessed Lord and Saviour fill the lack in the lives of these people.

Viet Nam

Pray for progress in, and results from, the radio work. At present programs are being recorded on tapes and then released on local stations in the country. More can be done, now that the Far East Broadcasting Company has sent a representative to Saigon to put the Mission radio studio into good shape. . . . The Lord has provided the means for Christian ads and gospel articles to be printed in Chinese language newspapers in Viet Nam. Pray that these will be written under the anointing of God and used of Him to reach the thousands of Chinese in Viet Nam and Cambodia.

Ecuador

An item for praise is God's working in the province of Manabí. As the missionaries made a "get-acquainted" trip through that province, they were received almost everywhere by people hungry for the Word. Pray God for a continued open door here. . . . Pray for a fine group of believers at El Chaco in the Oriente. Three years ago a Bible was traded for three bottles of liquor. The man who received the Bible came under deep conviction of sin from reading the Word. After the way of salvation was explained to him, he and his wife became the first believers in that area. Relatives and neighbors have been soundly converted, and now twenty adults give testimony of God's grace in their lives. The first baptismal service was held this New Year's Day when eleven well-established believers followed the Lord in this ordinance. These people live back in the jungles and have been visited only three times by Christian workers. They should be visited more often as the Lord enables, for they eagerly await more teaching in the Word.

Peru

Praise God for enabling Rev. John Swift to fulfill his teaching schedule during the last semester at the Bible institute. Nodules on his vocal cords so affected his voice that he had to give up almost all public speaking. Prayer was requested for him last June and July. Now he is being re-educated in the use of his voice by a specialist in Lima. It will take from three to five months. Pray that all will go well, and that he will be able to resume his work in the Bible institute in May.

Chile

Pray that God will supply a capable national pastor to carry on the work at Talcahuano, an important port city, before Rev. and Mrs. James Woehr leave for furlough in August.

Japan

God has supplied funds for the radio work, though often faith was tested. The contract for another year has been signed by faith, since the missionaries feel they must continue to use this medium of reaching so many who would otherwise never hear. Recently the missionary called to see a young lady who has T.B. She has never been to church and he was surprised to find her rejoicing in Jesus as her Saviour. She said, "It was all so dark! Then I heard over the radio the words of hope, and I finally understood enough to take Jesus as my Saviour from sin, and when I did peace came." Only God knows those who are finding peace in Christ because of the broadcast. Continue to pray for this work.

Indonesia

Pray for the national church in the Sesayap District. Several of the workers are unwilling to coöperate with the district committee or with the wishes of conference. A few have left their churches because of discouragement or the desire for material things. . . . Pray for the large number of Mohammedans in Tandjongselor. One is inquiring into the Christian faith and has read the New Testament through.

New Guinea

Duguarak, the witch doctor (see June 26 and September 25, 1957), has been very friendly and congenial of late. The missionaries believe the Lord has worked in his heart and they want to thank all who prayed. Now pray definitely that the Holy Spirit will reveal to Duguarak the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. . . . Pray for the Uhundunis who have been baptized recently, that they may be the beginning of a strong church in this tribe (see July 31, 1957). Pray, too, that God will give journeying mercies to, and bless the ministries of, Messrs. Gibbons and Ellenberger as they visit in the Beago and lower Ilorong areas. . . . Pray for the new missionaries—the Cooks, the Stringers and the Schultzes—who are taking the responsibility of stations after so short a period of language study. May God help these brethren in carrying on the work and in dealing with the various problems.

THE ALLIANCE FAMILY

CLIFFORD E. HARROD, Reporter

News reports may be sent direct to Rev. C. E. Harrod, The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, East and Lane Streets, Raleigh, N. C.

To the Fields

Mr. and Mrs. David Douglas and *Miss Carolyn Griswold* sailed from San Francisco on February 27.

Carolyn Griswold
Tribes, Viet Nam

Miss Griswold is returning to the Tribes of Viet Nam for her second term. She will be stationed at Banméthuot.

Mr. Douglas, of Fallon, Mont., is the son of Rev. J. H. Douglas who served as an Alliance pastor for twenty-one years. Mrs. Douglas is the former Helen May Irwin, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. E. F. Irwin, missionaries to Viet Nam. The Douglases are appointed to Viet Nam.

On Furlough

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Paul and sons, William, Jr., and Douglas, arrived in New York by plane from New Guinea on February 22.

Miss M. Grace Patterson arrived in New York on March 7 from Telekoro, French West Africa.

Rev. and Mrs. William Kissell and son, William, Jr., arrived in New York on March 4. They have completed their first term in Indonesia.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Myron Bromley arrived in New York on March 6. Mr. Bromley has completed his first term in the Baliem Valley, New Guinea. He was married on February 8, in Australia, to Miss Marjorie J. Teague, M.D.

The New Generation

To *Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Woerner,* Chile, S. A., a daughter, Denise Faith, on February 7.

To *Rev. and Mrs. David L. Bowland,* Punxsutawney, Pa., a daughter, Donna Lynn, on February 2.

To *Rev. and Mrs. R. B. Karcesky,* Baliem Valley, New Guinea, a son, Benjamin David, on February 24.

To *Rev. and Mrs. Paul Lehmann,* Cutler, Calif., a son, Stephen Paul, on January 28.

With the Lord

Mrs. C. B. Welles, retired missionary to the Congo, went to be with the Lord on January 3 in Miami, Fla., where she and her husband had lived for many years.

Margaret Macaw Welles was born in a godly home in North Ireland. Her father, Duncan Macaw, was known as a faithful servant of the Lord, interested in the spiritual welfare of his neighbors. He secured many able ministers of the gospel to speak in the village hall, and it was there that Margaret had a personal encounter with God in salvation.

Sometime later the family, one by one, migrated to America and made their home in Philadelphia, where they came into contact with The Christian and Missionary Alliance during the ministry of Rev. F. H. Senft. It was in the Alliance church that Margaret heard the call of God for missionary service in Africa. After graduating from The Missionary Training Institute at Nyack, N. Y., she was asked in 1910 to accompany an elderly missionary on her return to the Congo. This was the Lord's way of getting her to the field to which He had called her and where she served Him acceptably for many years. In 1917 she was married to Rev. Clinton B. Welles, and together they continued their ministry in Africa for seventeen years.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Welles is survived by a brother, Mr. Duncan Macaw, of Norwood, Pa., and a sister, Mrs. Mary MacMullan, of Ireland.

Mrs. Lucy M. Whipple, mother of Rev. J. Walton Whipple, chairman of our Laos Mission, went to be with the Lord on February 2, following a long illness. Mrs. Whipple directed the choir in the Alliance church in Meadville, Pa., where she had lived for many years. For a time she taught music at Nyack Missionary College, Nyack, N. Y. She is also survived by another son, Richard H., of Harrisburg, Pa.

On February 17 *Mr. Nathan Bailey, Sr.,* outstanding lay leader of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Wilmington, Del., went to be with the Lord. He was a member of the Society for forty-five years, during which time he served on the official board of the local church and held offices in the young people's society and the Sunday school. He was head elder at the time of his death. He was gifted as a preacher of the gospel and often occupied the pulpit in the absence of the pastor, as well as being active in extension work. He was twice elected by the General Council to the Committee on Salaries and also served as a trustee of the Eastern District for twelve years.

In addition to his wife he is survived by seven children. His three sons are in the Alliance ministry: Rev. Nathan Bailey, Jr., of Toronto, vice-president of the Society and superintendent of the Eastern and Central Canadian District; Rev. Thomas Bailey, professor at Nyack Missionary College, Nyack, N. Y., and Rev. Richard W. Bailey, pastor at Brockton, Mass. Four daughters survive: Anita M. Bailey, managing editor of THE ALLIANCE WITNESS; Mrs. Ruth Shinn and Mrs. Marjorie Frankel, both of Wilmington, and Mrs. Mary Adele McGarvey, Lancaster, Pa.

Mrs. Louisa M. Amstutz went to be with the Lord on February 7 in Dearborn, Mich., where she and her husband, Rev. M. S. Amstutz, were living in retirement after an active ministry. Mrs. Amstutz helped her husband in his work and maintained a vital interest in missions, leading the women's prayer bands in the various churches.

Besides her husband she is survived by two sons, both Alliance missionaries: Rev. Mahlon S. Amstutz, of Chile, S. A., and Rev. Jonathan L. Amstutz, of India, and four daughters: Mrs. Magdalene Faulkner, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Miss Mary Amstutz, of Dearborn, Mich.; Mrs. Lois Bryan, of Toledo, Ohio, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hendrix, of Hilltown, Pa. Three of her sons-in-law, Revs. W. F. Bryan, Olan Hendrix and J. R. Faulkner, and Rev. D. N. Clark, district superintendent, assisted the pastor, Rev. J. A. Lewis, in the funeral service.

Mrs. Mary Rupp Eicher went to be with the Lord on January 23, while living with her husband, Rev. P. L. Eicher, in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Following their marriage in 1904, they attended the Fort Wayne Bible Institute, Fort Wayne, Ind., and in 1906 went as missionaries to the Berar field in India. There she served in both the women's school at Khamgaon and the boys' school at Akola. Because of her failing health they returned from the field in 1922. Though confined to bed during the last years of her life Mrs. Eicher was made a blessing to many by telephone. Even her frequent

Mr. and Mrs. David Douglas, Viet Nam

times in hospitals left a radiant testimony for her Lord.

Mrs. Eicher is survived by her husband and three children: Mrs. Mildred G. Gerig, Cyril H. Eicher and G. Wilbur Eicher.

Two Campaigns Bring Spiritual Refreshing

Two separate two-week campaigns held in The Alliance Church of Stockton, Calif., brought definite spiritual refreshing, according to the pastor, Rev. Harvey H. Larson. The messages of Dr. Fred C. Zarfas, of El Cerrito, Calif., were owned of God. Dr. and Mrs. Zarfas and their son, Nelson, organist, also ministered in gospel music.

In February the Csehy Musical Messengers assisted the pastor in a campaign, with messages by the pastor on the various phases of revival. Missionary emphasis was added by Rev. and Mrs. Floyd Gibbs, en route to the Philippine Islands. Ten persons professed salvation during the campaigns.

New Life Services Held

"New Life" services were held recently in the Central Church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Lincoln, Nebr., with Dr. Peter Joshua bringing messages from the Word which produced real conviction. Writes the pastor, Rev. Ralph L. Williams, "All indications revealed a deep work."

Chilliwack Tabernacle Experiences Revival

The Alliance Tabernacle at Chilliwack, B. C., enjoyed revival blessing through the ministry of Rev. Roland M. Gray, Sr., from January 28 to February 9. The evangelist strongly emphasized the fourfold message of the Alliance. In response to the moving of the Holy Spirit five sought God for salvation, and more than fifty for sanctification or healing. The Chilliwack Tabernacle has been enjoying an all-time high Sunday school and church attendance, with more than 400 in Sunday school. Rev. J. T. McNair is pastor.

Church Organized in Findlay, Ohio

The Southside Alliance Tabernacle was officially organized on January 5 in Findlay, Ohio, after a series of evangelistic services. Rev. John Nussbaum was the evangelist, and Rev. David N. Clark, district superintendent, presided at the meeting of organization. Seventeen persons were received into the charter membership. The Sunday school attendance averages fifty-five. This work was begun just over a year ago by Mr. Marion Thomas. Mr. Eldon G. Bright is the pastor.

Good Meetings at Nyack

The spring revival at the Nyack Missionary College could be summed up in one terse sentence, "God came early in answer to prayer." Dr. R. R. Brown, of Omaha, Nebr., ministered under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Two themes predominated: the cross and the purpose of God. Many students for the first time experienced the "old-time flavor" of the C. & M. A. Nightly the altar was spontaneously filled by those responding to the call of the Spirit to give themselves in total dedication to the Christ of the cross so that "the ultimate purpose of God in the ages to come might be fulfilled—bringing all things in heaven and earth under Him."

Evangelists Available

Rev. F. Bertram Miller, an official worker of The Christian and Missionary Alliance since 1918, is currently available for evangelistic campaigns, Bible conferences and ministerial seminars. Mr. Miller has engaged in evangelism over long periods of time and has served a number of our Alliance churches. His ministry in the field of home extension has been most acceptable. He is a diligent student of the Bible and has a genuine burden for the lost. He may be addressed at Beulah Beach, Ohio.

Rev. Harold R. Ronson, singing evangelist of Niagara Falls, Ont., writes that he has open dates after May 1 and would like to hear from churches desiring services. His address is 943 St. Patrick Ave., Niagara Falls, Ont., Canada.

Pastoral Transfers and Appointments

Rev. Lawrence Berge, Bartlesville, Okla.

Rev. Gerald Bottenfield, Shippensburg, Pa.

Rev. Lawrence Broadhurst, Attleboro, Mass.

James Brocker, Student Pastor, Cuba, N. Y.

Rev. A. L. Brown, Retiral.

Rev. R. E. Ellenberger, Retiral.

Rev. Raymond S. Jarrett, Troy, Pa.

Rev. Walter L. Maurer, Durham, N. C.

Kenneth Tinklepaugh, Hawstone, Pa.

Rev. Charles M. Wright, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Palmer Zerbe, Garrison, Minn.

Rev. James R. Mason, associate pastor, St. Paul, Minn.

Moose Jaw Dedicates Center

In January the Alliance Tabernacle of Moose Jaw, Sask., dedicated a new Sunday School and Youth Center. The new building is a functional structure designed to house twenty-three classes, two departmental assembly rooms, recreational facilities for boys' clubs and girls' clubs and a study for the pastor. Much of the labor was contributed by the men of the congregation.

The Tabernacle was acclaimed last summer for conducting the largest vacation Bible school held in Canada. With additional facilities it is anticipated that new attendance records will be set this year. Rev. A. H. Orthner is the pastor of this thriving group.

Letters

"A Word of Wisdom"

A word of gratitude for your editorial, "Faith Dares to Fail." A word of wisdom from Him that sitteth upon the Throne! Continue to sit at His feet and share with all who will hear.—Robert Seng, *Wishram, Wash.*

Tremendous Improvement

The Alliance Witness is a tremendous improvement over The Alliance Weekly. —Rev. J. Kornelson, *Elma, Wash.*

From Overseas

We read The Alliance Witness with great interest and profit. May the Lord Himself increase its power in the years ahead wherever it may circulate.—Rev. David Lambert, *London, England.*

The articles are a real source of blessing to me, and the missionary news of real interest. I thank God for the missionary vision I received in the Alliance church in Flint (Rev. I. H. Patterson), Mich., where I was converted. Although I am under the Sudan Interior Mission, I do enjoy fellowship with the Alliance work in prayer and through the Witness.—B. Noffsinger, *Khartoum, Sudan.*

Missionary Treasury

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

January, 1958

General Fund	$373,837.06
Designated Specials	40,836.33

The Society's budget for 1958 amounts to $3,600,000 or $300,000 for each of the twelve months period during the year. We rejoice that through the goodness of God and the generosity of His saints the splendid income mentioned above for the month of January has been received in our General Missionary Fund.

This is a great encouragement to us, especially in view of the fact that last year we did not reach our anticipated budget and as a consequence had to curtail the completion of some vital missionary projects. Let us unite in prayer that this good level of giving may continue and our entire budget be met for 1958.

Gifts for the month of January are covered by our receipts Nos. 1 to 1717 and 1 to 163. If you failed to receive a receipt for your contributions, please communicate with our auditors, Messrs. Lambrides & Lambrides, 220 West 42nd Street, New York, New York.

All contributions should be designated and addressed to the Treasurer, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 260 West 44th Street, New York 36, New York.

Bernard S. King
Treasurer.

Sunday

MATTHEW 7:1-12 (verse 12).

God gives a simple test to apply to our own actions. This is the Golden Rule which shines like a star of light over all the teachings of human philosophy and morals. . . . This is the law of life by which we can determine for ourselves the right or wrong of any action about which we may be in doubt. Is it according to the law of love? Will it bring happiness and blessing to my brother? Would I want him to do it to me? This will clear away every mist and enable us to act with a good conscience and a full assurance of pleasing God.—A. B. SIMPSON.

Monday

JOHN 14:1-15 (verse 13).

We have the Most High revealed to us as a prayer-hearing God—a God of infinite grace and mercy, and full of compassion to the miserable; ready to pity us under all our sorrows and troubles, ready to hear our cries and to give us all the help and relief we need. And whatever difficulties or distresses we are in we are encouraged to go to Him in confidence. —JONATHAN EDWARDS.

Tuesday

PSALM 12 (verse 2).

The original is "a heart and a heart": one for the church, another for the change; one for Sundays, another for working days; one for the king, another for the pope. A man without a heart is a wonder, but a man with two hearts is a monster. It is said of Judas, "There were many hearts in one man"; and we read of the saints, "There was one heart in many men."—THOMAS ADAMS.

Wednesday

HEBREWS 7:11-28 (verse 25).

O my Sun and my Shield art Thou!
Lead on where Thou hast trod;
My Salvation, my Joy, my Song,
My Brother, and yet my God.

Whate'er then my life betide,
I now can trust and praise;
Each moment Thou wilt save,
O Saviour, who sav'st always.
—AN ENGLISH HYMNAL.

Thursday

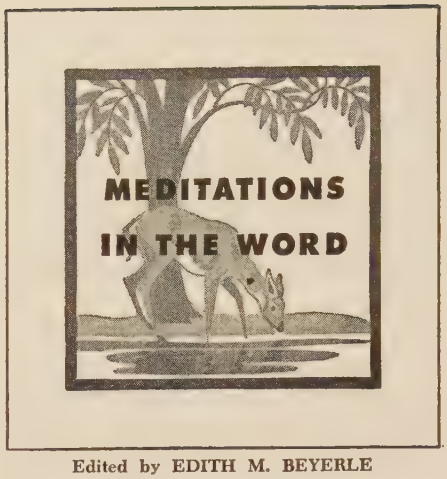
GENESIS 7:13-24 (verse 13).

This is a remarkable illustration of the example of godly parentage. Even though all the ungodly world probably ridiculed Noah during the building of the ark, his own household believed in him. They saw his walk with God and knew that his admonitions were not mere idle words. Perhaps more children today would be saved were their parents walking with God instead of following the ways of a God-forgetting world.—PAMEH.

Friday

1 CORINTHIANS 13 (verse 4).

Sir Philip Sidney, when lying mortally wounded upon the bloody field of Zutphen, was handed a canteen of water with which



Edited by EDITH M. BEYERLE

to quench his burning thirst. Turning to a common soldier who was lying beside him, also dying, the nobleman handed him the water, saying, "This poor fellow needs it more than I do," nor would he taste a drop until the soldier had been relieved. —SELECTED.

Saturday

GENESIS 32:13-32 (verse 25).

The power of resistance—which is self-will—being broken, the strength to cling —which is faith—is brought into exercise. So we see Jacob, the moment his thigh was out of joint, no longer wrestling, but clinging; no longer an antagonist resisting an enemy but as a suppliant in an attitude of earnest entreaty: "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me."—EVAN HOPKINS.

Sunday

MATTHEW 7:13-29 (verse 24).

God tests us now. . . . Many of these tests mercifully come to us now. God anticipates the day of judgment and gives to us the opportunity of finding out now whether we are prepared to stand the tests of the final day. . . . The figure of the rock refers undoubtedly to the great Rock of Ages, Jesus Christ Himself. He alone is the foundation of holy character and final acceptance. It is not enough to know these lofty teachings or even approve them. There is no power in poor human nature to fulfill them. The law of Christ, like the law of Moses, is but a mirror to reveal us to ourselves, but not a fountain to cleanse us. For this we must go to Christ Himself.—A. B. SIMPSON.

Monday

MARK 10:1-31 (verse 27).

We have lost the eternal youthfulness of Christianity and have aged into calculating manhood. We seldom pray in earnest for the extraordinary, the limitless, the glorious. We seldom pray with real confidence for any good if we cannot imagine a way to the realization of it. And yet we suppose ourselves to believe in an infinite Father.—SELECTED.

Tuesday

PSALM 13 (verse 3).

Prayer helps toward the increase and growth of grace by drawing the habits of grace into exercise. Now, as exercise brings benefit to the body, so does prayer to the soul. Exercise doth help to digest or breathe forth those humors that clog the spirits. . . . Prayer is the soul's exercise-field, where His graces are breathed; it is as wind to the air, it brightens the soul; as bellows to the fire, which clears the coals of those ashes that smother them. —WILLIAM GURNALL.

Wednesday

MARK 14:32-52 (verse 36).

God answers prayers; sometimes when hearts are weak,
He gives the very gifts believers seek.
But often faith must learn a deeper rest,
And trust God's silence when He does not speak;
For He whose name is Love will send the best.
Stars may burn out, nor mountain walls endure,
But God is true, His promises are sure
For those who seek.
—QUOTABLE POEMS.

Thursday

GENESIS 8:1-12 (verse 1).

What if God had forgotten Noah and all his "family" of mixed living creation? What suffering of man and stampeding of animals would have resulted! But God did not forget. What if God had forgotten His covenant with Noah (Gen. 6:18)? But God "is not a man, that he should lie." He never will forget His own no matter how high the floods of sorrow may rise. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee."—PAMEH.

Friday

LUKE 16:1-17 (verse 10).

The man who missed the opportunity and met the doom of the faithless servant was not the man with five talents or the man with two, but the man who had only one. The people who are in danger of missing life's greatest meaning are the people of ordinary capacity and opportunity who say to themselves, "There is so little I can do that I will not not try to do anything."—THE HERALD.

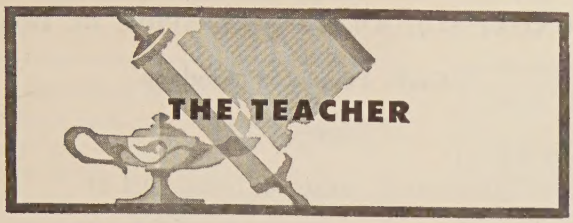
Saturday

ISAIAH 57 (verse 15).

Who are the contrite? In the original word there is the significance of pieces of rock or lumps of soil having been crumbled into the finest powder. . . . Our gracious Lord has sometimes to use heavy hammers in the destruction of this hard and stony pride: the shock of calamity, the battering of disappointment and defeat! Our pride must be ground to powder. Then He will come in and dwell with us.—J. H. JOWETT.

Index Still Available

A limited number of the index to the 1957 ALLIANCE WEEKLY is still available. It may be ordered from the editorial offices at 260 West 44th St., New York 36, N. Y. Price, $1.00.



By DON J. KENYON

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON—APRIL 6, 1958

The Church's Assurance of Victory

John 20:26-29; Ephesians 1:15-23

DEVOTIONAL READING—1 Peter 1:3-9

GOLDEN TEXT—*"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly . . . according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church . . ."*—EPHESIANS 3:20, 21.

BACKGROUND AND LESSON ORIENTATION

The Church's victory is inherent in Christ's finished work at Calvary. This week's lesson concerns a declaration of this triumph from both the risen Lord and His apostle, Paul. The passage from Ephesians is the most powerful statement on this victory. The late J. A. MacMillan called this "the authority of the intercessor." The same power that brought Christ forth from the dead is seen here to be at the disposal of the believer in his warfare against Satan. His authority over the powers of darkness is as limitless as his faith in Christ. His Lord is seated in the heavenlies above all powers. His name is above every name. All things are under His feet. The most glorious fact is that this victorious Lord is God's love gift to His Church. It is the Head that empowers and controls the body.

CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS

The context of the selections from John is the appearance of the resurrected Christ in the room where the disciples were gathered in fear. Thomas missed this and was cautious and unconvinced. His faithlessness was fed by lack of convincing evidence. When it was given he became an ardent believer. Granted that purest faith does not demand the proof of the senses, our sympathies ought to be with Thomas. The most amazing fact about the passage in Ephesians is that it was addressed to people who were lately come out of the grossest heathenism. But there had been born in them the "mind of Christ." They were able to apprehend this truth effectively enough to be the most commendable church among the seven churches of Asia Minor listed in the Revelation. How we underestimate the ability of men to grasp deep truth!

SIMPLIFIED OUTLINE

1. *The Victory of Faith*—John 20: 26-29.
2. *Intercession for Wisdom*—Ephesians 1:15-18.
3. *Revelation of Triumph*—Ephesians 1:19-23.

KEY WORD ANALYSIS

"Spirit of wisdom and revelation"—*pneuma sophias kai apokalupseos* (Eph. 1:17). Significantly enough this is the specific work for which the Holy Spirit has been sent into the world (John 16: 13-15). The word *pneuma* has no mechanical way of indicating whether the Holy Spirit is meant or the spirit of the person. There are some cases where there is a legitimate question as to which is intended. Since this power is a grant from God, the Holy Spirit would be the author of the ability. *Sophia* would have to do with all the treasures of knowledge and wisdom that are in Christ. "Revelation" *(apokalupsis)* means to take the veil off of something that has been covered. God reserves such revelation for the seekers.

COMMENTARY ON THE PRINTED TEXT

1. *The Victory of Faith*

Simple reckoning will determine that the Lord made this first visit to the assembled disciples on the evening of Resurrection Day. The second visit, eight days later, would have been on the following Monday. These appearances continued for forty days (Acts 1:3) and were accompanied by periods of teaching.

It was the suddenness and unexpected aspect of this appearance which made it singular in human history. It seemed directed primarily to the problem of one man's unbelief. Gaining the strong faith of these men was essential to the Great Commission. Peter was dealt with individually (John 21).

Christ submitted Himself to the requirements demanded by the unbelieving Thomas. God does not make a habit of bowing to the demands of our unbelief. In this case it is my opinion that Thomas *did not* carry out his demand. Faith came by seeing the wounds. Thomas' cry of faith is even more vivid in the Greek: "The Lord of me and the God of me."

To call Christ Lord and God was the "blasphemy" for which the Sanhedrin had put Christ to death. Today we have the testimony of eyewitnesses as well as that of believers through the ages. Our faith rests on the Word.

2. *Intercession for Wisdom*

What Paul had heard about the faith of the Ephesians may not have been entirely to his satisfaction. It needed to be revitalized by fresh revelation concerning their position in Christ. Therefore he prayed that a spirit of wisdom and revelation be granted these former heathen idolaters. Such wisdom is not gained by education.

He wanted them to have a full knowledge of Christ. They had knowledge but not of His fullness of victory. The eyes of their heart would have to be employed to grasp this truth. Their eyes had certainly been opened but they needed to see what they had not as yet seen. Their hope must be bright and clear if their witness were to be good. The saints ought to be aware of the riches of God's inheritance which are resident in us as His children.

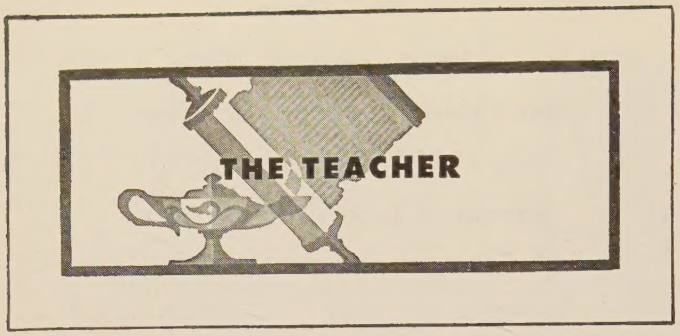
3. *Revelation of Triumph*

Paul used some of the most extravagant language of the Scriptures to convey these next thoughts. Having mentioned the hope, the inheritance and the power, he began to amplify the third.

God's power is the activity of His own dominion. God moves the very energy of His universe into operation for the believer. This power is characterized as that energy that gave life to the dead Jesus. It is further described as the power which gave Him His exaltation, authority and dominion. It has enthroned Him in the highest heaven. His authority is above all authority. His name is above every name. All things are under His feet. No place in the universe is too remote to feel the effect of this authority. This victorious Head is granted by God to the Church. Contemplation of such truth makes our weak religion show up in its true light.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR LESSON PREPARATION

Since this is the last lesson of a series on the Church in its various relationships, it would be well for the serious student to prepare a summary of the facts which have been studied. To write a paragraph summary of the past quarter's thoughts ought to create a jewel of truth which a person may treasure forever. Putting one's thoughts in words is the secret of clarifiying them, stabilizing them.



By DON J. KENYON

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON—APRIL 13, 1958

God's People in Bondage

Exodus 1:7-22

DEVOTIONAL READING—Isaiah 40:1-11

GOLDEN TEXT—*"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?"*—PSALM 118:6.

BACKGROUND AND LESSON ORIENTATION

Joseph had been sent by God into Egypt to prepare the way for the family of his father, Israel. This was all part of the plan which God had for the Covenant People. They had been given a choice spot in the delta region of the Nile and had lived many years in prosperity and pleasantness. The land "was filled with them." During this period they had become infected with the religion of Egypt. But they grew under God not as Egypto-Israelites but as Hebrews. Now that the power and prestige of Joseph were but memory and a new Pharaoh was ruling, these people were looked upon as a dangerous threat to Egyptian safety. Something would have to be done. The strangers were becoming more numerous and stronger than the Egyptians. The decision was to enslave them and set them to building treasure cities.

CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS

The selection for this week forms a backdrop for God's choice of Moses—an account so singularly redemptive that the point is lost if this is overlooked. There is every indication that these slaves were polluted with idolatry. They were not delivered because they were worthy; they were delivered because of the promise made to their fathers. They had indeed been preserved for a purpose. The Book of Exodus opens up with a genealogical listing not unlike the Gospel of Matthew. This was a record of the seed of the woman which would ultimately in Christ bruise the serpent's head. This week's lesson centers in the Moses narrative. The choice and preparation of this leader is one of the great dramas of human history. The preparation began at birth. Before that it began in a godly parentage.

SIMPLIFIED OUTLINE

1. *A New King Decrees a Change* —Exodus 1:7-10.
2. *The Israelites Enslaved* — Exodus 1:11-14.
3. *A Murderous Plot*—Exodus 1: 15-22.

KEY WORD ANALYSIS

(1) "Deal wisely" (v. 10). The first policy of the new Pharaoh was one which called for shrewdness. It was a scheme to subjugate the Israelites to such rigorous labor that their energies would be sapped and they would lose their will to resist. Pharaoh was afraid of what they would do if they grew in size and strength.

(2) "Kill him" (v. 16). This policy was born of hatred. Having been thwarted in the success of the first plan, the enraged king called for murder. He would have made his own subjects murderers. When the secret plot failed he openly enlisted his people to liquidate the male children. It became a contest between a sovereign God and a willful dictator.

COMMENTARY ON THE PRINTED TEXT

1. *A New King Decrees a Change*

The increase of the Hebrew dwellers in Goshen caused the Pharaoh of Egypt to be concerned for the safety of his country. The favor which they had enjoyed up to that time was due to Joseph's influence, which had now gone. Perhaps the prestige that the foreign Joseph had enjoyed rankled the new administration. In any event, these people were a threat to the country.

The plan submitted was the decision of a king who was either using this as a sound reason or a good excuse. The facts which Pharaoh set forth were certainly in the sphere of possibility. Since slavery was the foundation of their economy, a wholesale exodus would throw the nation into confusion.

2. *The Israelites Enslaved*

Prior to this there may have been subjugation and forced labor, but at this point it became an officially organized affliction for the purpose of taking the heart for rebellion out of them. As God's people bent their back to build the treasure cities their weariness became intolerable. The plan did succeed in fusing them into a unit groaning unto God for deliverance, and Pharaoh's plan worked out the will of God. This rigorous, disciplined life was molding a race which would ultimately defy Pharaoh and stand up to the nomadic life they would live in the desert.

The plan of God called for the kind of people that would grow under the whiplash. But as Pharaoh saw the people thriving under the very pressure he had planned to break them, he and his council were perplexed. They increased the pressure. Labor and affliction were made unreasonable.

The one thing Pharaoh did not understand was the spiritual heritage of these people. God was molding them to become His channel of world redemption. Bitterness, hardness, rigor are always words which will be associated with the price to be paid for sin.

3. *A Murderous Plot*

Pharaoh, desperate and sullen because his policy seemed unable to accomplish his end, now resorted to a crude and murderous measure. He turned the battle into one of life and death. As the Egyptian midwives saw the raw courage of these enslaved people they feared their God. Things looked different from their point of view than they did from the lazy luxury of the palace. This amounted to a defiance of the king's order. He decided on sterner measures.

Meanwhile God was acting in behalf of His people. He not only encouraged the midwives to desist from the murder of the children but He openly blessed them with prosperity for their mercy. It should be understood that God did not condone their deliberate falsehood to Pharaoh but rewarded the mercy which prompted the lie.

The order to cast the male children in the river was tantamount to offering them as sacrifices to the gods of Egypt. The sacred Nile was invoked in this contest between a willful dictator and a redemptive God. God was teaching Egypt and Israel that He was God.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR LESSON PREPARATION

The most persistent temptation in the study of Old Testament narrative is to become captivated by the romance of the story while overlooking the reason for its being written. Nothing appears in the Bible that does not have full redemptive significance. It is well for the student of the Word to approach the study with the question: "What is the spiritual significance of this material?"

Local Conventions

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Convening March 30–April 13

People not ordinarily interested in religious matters often take a great interest in missionary work. A missionary convention affords you an excellent opportunity to invite friends for whom you are praying to attend Church with you.

Western Pennsylvania District

Johnstown, Pa. .....March 30–April 6
South Fork, Pa. .....March 30–April 2
Beaverdale, Pa. .....March 30–April 2
Gray, Pa. .....April 3-6
Central City, Pa. .....April 3-6
Rockwood, Pa. .....April 6- 9
Scullton, Pa. .....April 6- 9
Donegal, Pa. .....April 10-13
Rogers Mills, Pa. .....April 10-13
Critchfield, Pa. .....April 10-13

South Atlantic District

Raleigh, N. C. .....March 31–April 6
Durham, N. C. .....April 7-13
Burlington, N. C. .....April 11-13

Southwestern District

El Paso, Tex. .....March 31–April 2
Ozone, Ark. .....March 31
Patterson Springs, Ark. .....April 1
Limestone, Ark. .....April 2
Deer, Ark. .....April 3
Cowell, Ark. .....April 4
Red Rock, Ark. .....April 5
Harrison, Ark. .....April 6, 7
Henderson, Ark. .....April 8
Batesville, Ark. .....April 9

Central District

Muncie, Ind. .....March 31–April 6
Frankfort, Ind. .....April 3-6
Port Huron, Mich. ....March 31–April 6
Mt. Clemens, Mich. .....April 3-6
Morgantown, W. Va. ..March 31–April 6
Fairmont, W. Va. ....March 31–April 6
Logansport, Ind. .....April 7-13
Kokomo, Ind. .....April 10-13
Perry-Lansing, Mich. .....April 6- 9
Saginaw, Mich. .....April 7-13
Mt. Pleasant, Mich. .....April 10-13
Nutter Fort, W. Va. .....April 7-13
Clarksburg, W. Va. .....April 10-13

Western District

Westmont, Ill. .....March 30–April 3
Aurora, Ill. .....April 2- 6
South Holland, Ill. .....April 6- 9
Chicago, Ill.
(Northwest Church) .....April 9-13

Eastern and Central Canadian District

Belleville, Ont. .....March 30–April 6
Peterborough, Ont. .....April 6-13

Western Canadian District

Vancouver, B. C. .....March 30–April 6

Pacific Northwest District

Yakima, Wash. .....March 30–April 6
Ellensburg, Wash. ....March 30–April 6
Roseburg, Ore. .....March 30–April 6
Veneta, Ore. .....March 30–April 1
Coos Bay, Ore. .....March 30–April 6
Wolf Creek, Ore. .....April 2-4
Walla Walla, Wash. .....April 6-13
Lewiston, Ida. .....April 7-13
Boise, Ida. .....April 9-13
Ashland, Ore. .....April 6- 9
Trail, Ore. .....April 7, 8
Eagle Point, Ore. .....April 7, 8
Central Point, Ore. .....April 9-13
Bly, Ore. .....April 9-13
Ft. Jones, Calif. .....April 10-13

An Authentic Behind-the-Scenes Look at

BILLY GRAHAM

and the

NEW YORK CRUSADE

By

George Burnham and Lee Fisher

Now you can read the facts and figures in this authentic report of the great crusade—the "modern miracle" which *really* happened in New York City. Illustrated; 192 pages.....$2.50

A Zondervan Publication

ORDER FROM YOUR BOOKSTORE

Christian Publications, Inc.
Third and Reily Streets
Harrisburg, Penna.
Dept. AW

OR

William H. Dietz, Inc.
10 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 3, Illinois
Dept. 4

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH! PLAN TO ATTEND!

"Campus Weekend"

at NYACK MISSIONARY COLLEGE

APRIL 25-26-27

Hear Larry McGuill, Don Miller, Dr. H. W. Boon, Mrs. George Constance, Rod Montgomery, and others . . .

Good Music — Singing — Fellowship — Panel Discussions

Begins with evening meal Friday, April 25 (5:40 P.M.)
Closes with the noon meal Sunday, April 27

Registration $1.00 *Room and Board $5.00*

Send for further details or Ask your pastor

A delightful weekend at Nyack's lovely campus

Nyack Missionary College, *Nyack, New York*

CHARLES FOLLANSBEE LIB.
PACIFIC SCH OF RELIGION
BERKELEY CALIF

Filipinas delight in the Word of God in their own language

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

To those who obey His command Christ promises

Resurrection Resources

WHEN Christ sent His disciples to preach the gospel to every creature even unto the uttermost part of the earth, He promised to be with them always. He made this promise as the One who had risen from the dead and as the One who had been given "all power . . . in heaven and in earth."

The tremendous accomplishments of the Church can only be explained by the presence and personal indwelling of Christ. He who "spoiled principalities and powers" and "made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it," supplies the resources gained through His resurrection. He makes them available to those who move forward in obedience to His commission.

Armed with Christ's assurance, "Lo, I am with you alway," missionaries face undaunted the barriers that loom in their way. Oceans, mountains, customs, languages, official decrees, immigration red tape, false religions and hostile savages combined are not enough to turn back those who realize the urgency of doing what Christ bids. When physically ejected from a country, they find ways of penetrating iron and bamboo curtains with gospel messages in the mails or by means of radio transmitters. Through the ministry of intercessory prayer they keep watering the Word that has been sown in other days.

Pioneers in the Sudan, "accounting that God was able to raise (them) up, even from the dead," faced exposure to yellow fever. And some did die. On lonely posts in China and India heroes of the faith have sealed their testimony with their blood, "not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection."

The fountainhead of missions is Easter. The dynamic outflow of the Church has its source in "one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive." It was in His power that "they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."

THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE
260 West 44th St., New York 36, N. Y. 61 Glenvale Blvd., Toronto 17, Canada